

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3960

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 8914

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KS KN JACUS UN

SUBJECT: KOREA IN 30TH UNGA

1. AT LUNCHEON WITH DCM, ASST. VICE MINISTER FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS KIM CHUNG TAI WAS PHILOSOPHICAL ABOUT OUTCOME OF THIS YEAR'S KOREAN DEBATE IN UNGA. KIM SAID HE HAD BEEN SENT HOME EARLY TO DRAFT FONMIN KIM DONG JO'S REPORT TO PRESIDENT PARK. HE INDICATED THAT REPORT WOULD PUT BEST POSSIBLE FACE ON OUTCOME, STRESSING THAT FRIENDLY RESOLUTION HAD RECEIVED MORE POSITIVE VOTES THAN HOSTILE RESOLUTION AND THAT THERE ACTUALLY HAD BEEN LESS SLIPPAGE IN NUMBER OF VOTES FOR FRIENDLY RESOLUTION COMPARED TO LAST YEAR THAN HAD BEEN EXPECTED AND MORE SLIPPAGE THAN EXPECTED IN POSITIVE VOTE FOR HOSTILE RESOLUTION. HE EXPRESSED GREAT APPRECIATION FOR ENORMOUS EFFORT BY USUN, DEPARTMENT, AND US EMBASSIES WORLDWIDE, AND SAID THIS WOULD BE HIGHLIGHTED IN REPORT TO PRESIDENT.

2. KIM SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE FONMIN'S PERSONAL POSITION WAS IN SERIOUS JEOPARDY. HE THOUGHT ROK DELEGATION HAD WORKED VERY HARD AND HAD ACCOMPLISHED ALL THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED OF IT. TO DISMISS FONMIN FOR NOT HAVING ACHIEVED BETTER RESULTS WOULD BE TO ADMIT POLICY FAILURE, WHICH HE DID NOT BELIEVE PRESIDENT PARK WOULD BE WILLING TO DO.

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3. KIM SAID FEELING WAS STRONG WITHIN ROKG THAT MEANS SHOULD BE FOUND TO AVOID HAVING TO EXPEND TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF TIME, ENERGY, AND MONEY IN WHAT MANY REGARD AS FUTILE EXERCISE. ROK ANALYSTS, HE SAID, FEEL THAT GENERAL TREND IS RUNNING AGAINST ROK INTERESTS AND THAT ANOTHER UN DEBATE COULD RESULT IN DEFEAT FOR FRIENDLY RESOLUTION. PRESSED FOR SPECIFICS, KIM SAID THAT KOREANS HAVE GUT FEELING THAT NEXT YEAR JAPANESE WILL NOT BE WILLING TO THROW WEIGHT BEHIND ROK POSITION AND THAT ANY DEGREE OF DEFECTION BY JAPAN WOULD HAVE SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS ON ATTITUDES OF OTHER SUPPORTERS, PARTICULARLY ASIAN AND NON-ALIGNED. IN SUPPORT OF THIS CONCERN, HE CITED EARLY AMBIGUOUS STATEMENTS AND ACTIONS BY JAPANESE PERMREP, RUMORS THAT JAPAN COVETS POSITION AS BRIDGE BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA AND HAD BEEN ATTEMPTING TO PROMOTE CONSENSUS, AND RELUCTANCE OF RELATIVELY WEAK MIKI GOVERNMENT TO STAND UP TO DOMESTIC PRESSURES PUSHING JAPAN TOWARD ACCOMMODATION WITH NORTH KOREA.

4. KIM SAID HE AND FONMIN HAD BEEN IMPRESSED WITH THEIR WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS, ESPECIALLY ARGUMENTS WHICH QUESTIONED WISDOM OF ATTEMPTING TO EVADE FUTURE UN DEBATES ON KOREAN ISSUE, BUT THOUGHT THAT OPINION FAVORING THIS COURSE OF ACTION WAS NEVERTHELESS RUNNING VERY STRONG IN SEOUL. DCM REMINDED KIM THAT USG WOULD WISH TO HOLD FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH ROKG ON FUTURE ACTIONS FOLLOWING ASSESSMENT OF THIS YEAR'S RESULTS, AND WARNED HIM IN PARTICULAR ABOUT DANGERS OF ANY PREMATURE UNILATERAL ROK DECISION IN THIS REGARD, PARTICULARLY ANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT WHICH MIGHT BE MISLEADING AND WORK TO OUR MUTUAL DISADVANTAGE.
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Message Attributes

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